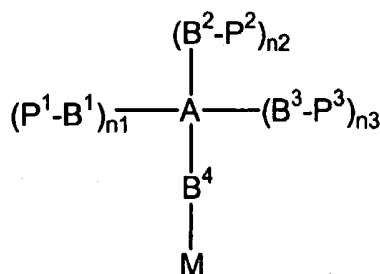


In the claims:

Please amend claims 1-7, 10 and 12-13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound comprising units ~~a repeating unit~~ of formula (I)



in which:

A represents a nitrogen atom, a carbon atom, a group $-CR^1-$ or an aromatic or alicyclic group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano and a C_{1-18} cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl $-CH_2-$ groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from $-O-$, $-CO-$, $-CO-O-$, $-O-CO-$, $-Si(CH_3)_2-O-Si(CH_3)_2-$, $-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-$, $-CO-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-O-$, $-O-CO-NR^1-$, $-NR^1-CO-NR^1-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-C\equiv C-$ and $-O-CO-O-$, wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl,

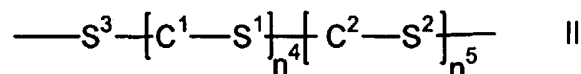
M represents a repeating monomer unit;

n^1 to n^3 each independently represent 0 or an integer having a value of from 1 to 3, with the proviso that $1 < n^1 + n^2 + n^3 < 4$;

P^1, P^2, P^3 each independently represents a photoactive group; and

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B¹ to B⁴ each independently represent a residue of general formula II



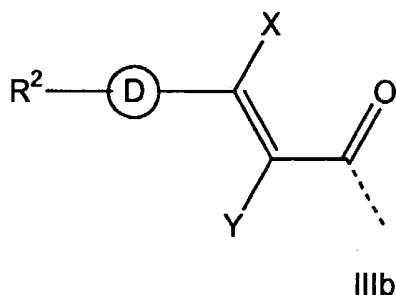
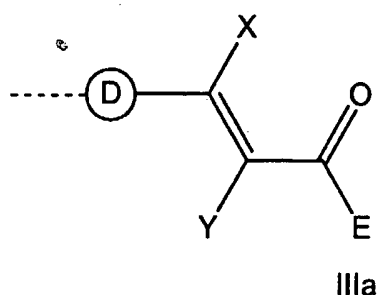
in which

S¹ to S³ each independently represent a single bond or a spacer group selected from a C₁₋₂₄ straight-chain or branched alkylene group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkylene —CH₂— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH₃)₂—O—Si(CH₃)₂—, —NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—, —CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—NR¹—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R¹ is as defined above,

C¹ and C² each independently represents an aromatic or an alicyclic group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano or a C₁₋₁₈ cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH₂— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH₃)₂—O—Si(CH₃)₂—, —NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—, —CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—NR¹—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl, and

n⁴ and n⁵ are each independently 0 or 1.

2/. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound according to Claim 1, in which P¹ to P³ are selected from the general formulae IIIa and IIIb:



wherein the broken line indicates the point of linkage to S³ and wherein:

- D represents pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, 2,5-thiophenylene, 2,5-furanylene, 1,4- or 2,6-naphthylene; a phenylene group, which is optionally substituted by a group selected from fluorine, chlorine, cyano; or a C₁₋₁₈ cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen groups and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH₂— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH₃)₂—O—Si(CH₃)₂—, —NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—, —CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—NR¹—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R¹ is as defined above;
- E represents —OR³, —NR⁴R⁵ or an oxygen atom, which defines together with the ring D a coumarin unit, wherein R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are selected from hydrogen and a C₁₋₁₈ cyclic, straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH₂— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO— and —CH=CH—, or R⁴ and R⁵ together form a C₅₋₈ alicyclic ring;

- B1
Cashed.
- X, Y each independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, cyano or a C₁₋₁₂ alkyl group, which is optionally substituted by fluorine and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH₂— groups are optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—O—, —O—CO— and —CH=CH—;
- R² represents hydrogen or a C₁₋₁₈ straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by a single cyano group or by one or more halogen atoms and in which one or more non-adjacent alkyl —CH₂— groups are independently optionally replaced by a group selected from —O—, —CO—, —CO—O—, —O—CO—, —Si(CH₃)₂—O—Si(CH₃)₂—, —NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—, —CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—O—, —O—CO—NR¹—, —NR¹—CO—NR¹—, —CH=CH—, —C≡C— and —O—CO—O—, wherein R¹ is as defined above.

~~3~~ 3. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound according to Claim 1, in which the repeating unit of formula (I) accounts for at least 50% of the monomer building blocks in the compound.

~~4~~ 4. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound according to claim 1, in which the group M is selected from acrylate; methacrylate; 2-chloroacrylate; 2-phenylacrylate; acrylamide, methacrylamide, 2-chloroacrylamide and 2-phenylacrylamide, the nitrogen atom of which is optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group; vinyl ether; vinyl ester; a styrene derivative; siloxane; imide; amic acid; an amic acid ester; amidimide; a maleic acid derivative and a fumaric acid derivative.

~~5~~ 5. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising the polymerization of one or more ~~pre-finished~~ monomer units of formula (I).

6/6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1 by way of a polymer-analogous reaction, which comprises reacting functional photoactive derivatives with reactive polymers ~~a photoactive derivative with a functional polymer analogue of a polymer according to Claim 1.~~

7/7. (Currently Amended) A polymer layer, comprising a polymeric compound according to claim 1 of formula (I) in cross-linked form.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).

8/10. (Currently Amended) An optical or an electro-optical device, comprising a polymeric compound according to claim 1.

9/11. (Previously Presented) An optical or an electro-optical device, comprising a layer according to Claim 7.

10/12. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, which is Poly-[1-[11-[5-[4-[(E)-2-methoxy-carbonylvinyl]benzoyloxy]-2-[6-[2-methoxy-(E)-4-(methoxycarbonylvinyl)-phenoxy]oxyhexyl]benzoyloxy]undecyloxy]carbonyl]-1-methylethylene].

11/13. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compound as claimed in claim 1, which is Poly-[1-[11-(E,E)-2,5-di-[6-[2-methoxy-4-(methoxycarbonylvinyl)phenoxy]oxyhexyl]benzoyloxy]undecyloxy]carbonyl]-1-methylethylene].